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CONSTITUTION: Offgas containing oxygen from a fuel cell 1 operated under a pressurized condition is introduced through a line 7 into a heat exchanger 17 within a hydrogen generating apparatus 8 so as to be heated, then passed through an expander 11 of an expander compressor 10 so as to be reduced in its pressure, and then supplied through a line 18 to a fuel burning heater 9 for a steam reforming reactor as an oxygen source for the burning. At the same time, atmospheric air 13 is pressurized by a compressor 12 and supplied to the fuel cell 1 as its oxygen source. Therefore, the fuel burning heater 9 for the steam reforming reactor within the hydrogen generating apparatus 8 can be operated under a pressure close to the atmospheric pressure without inviting any disadvantage in terms of consumed energy, and thus maintenance, inspection, and so forth can be greatly simplified.

